

# Report of the Meeting of WOAH *ad hoc* Group on the revision of Chapter 7.5. ‘Slaughter of animals’

Original: English (EN)

25 to 27 October 2022  
Hybrid

## Table of Contents

1. Introduction .....	2
2. Welcome from the DDG-ISS.....	2
3. Update on the September 2022 Code Commission meeting .....	2
4. Review of comments on draft Chapter 7.5. ‘Animal Welfare during slaughter’ .....	2
5. Review of comments on the Glossary definitions related to Chapter 7.5. ....	13
6. Next steps.....	14

## List of Annexes

Annex 1. Adopted Agenda.....	15
Annex 2. List of Participants .....	16
Annex 3. Terms of Reference.....	17



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

Standards Department  
[standards.dept@woah.org]

12, rue de Prony  
75017 Paris, France

T. +33 (0)1 44 15 18 88  
F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87  
woah@woah.org  
www.woah.org

---

## 1. Introduction

The *ad hoc* Group (hereafter ‘the Group’) was convened by the Director General following the request of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission) to consider comments received from Members and International Organisations on the revised Chapter 7.5. ‘Animal welfare during slaughter’, that had been circulated in the Code Commission’s February 2022 report.

The Group met in person and via video conference between the 25 and 27 October 2022. The Agenda of the meeting, the list of participants and the Terms of Reference are presented in [Annex 1](#), [2](#) and [3](#) respectively.

## 2. Welcome from the DDG-ISS

Dr Montserrat Arroyo, the WOAHA Deputy Director General, International Standards and Science, welcomed members of the Group and thanked them for their availability and continued contribution to the work of WOAHA. She extended her appreciation to their institutes and national governments for allowing their participation in this meeting. She acknowledged that this was an important yet challenging subject and the revision of this chapter is anticipated. She invited the members to continue to contribute during the meeting and outside the formal meeting.

## 3. Update on the September 2022 Code Commission meeting

The Group noted the Code Commission’s support to continue its work to review Chapter 7.5. ‘Animal welfare during slaughter’ and associated Glossary definitions taking into consideration Member comments received. The Group also noted that the Commission agreed to delete the definition of ‘death’ as its use was aligned with its common usage, therefore negating the need for a specific definition in the Glossary.

## 4. Review of comments on draft Chapter 7.5. ‘Animal Welfare during slaughter’.

Comments on Chapter 7.5. were received from Australia, Canada, China (People’s Republic of), Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom (the UK), the United States of America (the USA), the European Union (the EU) and the International Coalition for Farm Animal Welfare (ICFAW).

The *ad hoc* Group considered all comments and made amendments to improve clarity and readability, where relevant. Where amendments were of an editorial nature, no explanatory text has been provided in this Report. In addition, the *ad hoc* Group did not consider comments that were difficult to interpret, that had no rationale, or that were too specific in nature, for example when a comment was relevant to only one region.

This report includes the Group’s responses to Member comments. The revised draft Chapter 7.5. ‘Animal welfare during slaughter’ will be provided to the Code Commission for its consideration at its February 2023 meeting.

The proposed revised Chapter 7.5 Animal Welfare during slaughter will be presented in the report of the Terrestrial Code Commission February 2023.

### General comments

The Group did not agree with a suggestion to merge articles 7.5.26. to 7.5.29. to reflect the structure used for free-moving animals. Instead, the Group agreed with a comment to split article 7.5.16. into smaller articles to align the structure with the articles on stunning of animals in containers.

### Article 7.5.1. Introduction

The Group agreed with comments to rephrase the paragraph to improve readability and to add the concept of ‘worker’s wellbeing’.

### Article 7.5.2. Scope

The Group agreed with a comment to change ‘animal welfare hazards’ to ‘hazards to animal welfare’ to avoid suggesting unintentionally that animal welfare is, in itself, a hazard. This change was made throughout the chapter.

In the second paragraph, the Group did not agree to change ‘pigs’ to ‘suids’ because the recommendations in this chapter do not apply to all suids such as ‘wild boars’.

---

### **Article 7.5.3. Definition for the purpose of this chapter**

No comments received.

### **Article 7.5.4. Animal welfare hazards**

No comments received.

### **Article 7.5.5. Criteria (or measures)**

In the second paragraph, the Group agreed to change 'outcome-based measurables' with 'animal-based measures' to harmonise the terminology. This change was applied throughout the chapter.

### **Article 7.5.6. Management**

In the list, the Group agreed to add a new item 'recording, reporting adverse incidents and taking corrective actions' as the need for such action is included in various articles of this chapter. The Group agreed to add 'of equipment and premises' to the bullet 'maintenance and cleaning procedures' to improve clarity, and to change 'operating procedure and corrective actions' for 'standards operating procedure' to use common terminology.

The Group considered suggestions of items to add to the list that the operating plan should consider but did not agree with adding any of them due to being too specific or not relevant.

### **Article 7.5.7. Training and competency of personnel**

In the second sentence of the second paragraph, the Group did not agree to replace 'to identify signs of' with 'of how to avoid [signs of]' as it is not possible to 'avoid signs of' but accepted to add 'that allows them [to identify signs of]' and proposed to add 'and take preventive and corrective actions' at the end of the sentence to clarify the idea.

In the last sentence of the second paragraph, the Group agreed to add 'post-stun' as a specific procedure for which personnel should be able to identify issues and take corrective actions and add 'including pre-stun shackling' in the third sentence to be consistent with the change in the last sentence.

In point c), the Group agreed to replace 'animal is still alive' with 'signs of life' to improve readability and to align style with the two other points.

### **Article 7.5.8. Design of premises and choice of equipment**

In the list, the Group agreed to reinstate the concept of protection from noise given that slaughterhouse environment can be noisy and added a new indent 'protection from visual, auditory and olfactory overstimulation'.

In the list, the Group did not agree to change 'minimising fear' with 'fear avoidance' as you cannot avoid fear, but one should consider animals' needs when designing the premises so that the design minimise the animal's fear.

In the list, the Group agreed with a comment to move and rephrase 'including the need of sick or injured animals' as a separate indent as 'watering and feeding needs' apply to animals in general and not only for sick or injured ones. Consequently, the Group agreed to add a new indent to acknowledge the other vulnerabilities.

In the penultimate paragraph, the Group did not agree to add 'level and' as what the flooring should be but added 'or falling' to clarify that the flooring should be such that it prevents animal from falling.

### **Article 7.5.9. Throughput (number of animals slaughtered per hour)**

In the first paragraph, the Group did not agree to add 'as assessed through the use of animal-based measures' as reasons to reduce throughput may be due to causes other than based on animal-based measures.

In the first paragraph, the Group did not agree to add 'keeping in mind appropriate space allowance for animals' as it did not add anything to the sentence.

---

#### **Article 7.5.10. Maintenance and cleaning procedures**

In the first paragraph, the Group agreed to add 'good outcome for' in front of animal welfare to specify that it should be beneficial.

In the second paragraph, the Group did not agree to remove the adverb 'smoothly' as it specifies how the animal should be handled i.e. not ruthless.

In the last paragraph, the Group agreed to add 'handling' in the list of equipment to maintain and clean as it is also important that such equipment does not impact negatively on animal welfare.

#### **Article 7.5.11. Contingency plans**

In the first paragraph, the Group did not agree to add wording that care of animal should be provided during unexpected disruption to the operation as it is already understood that contingency plans are for unexpected events.

#### **Article 7.5.12. Arrival of free-moving animals**

##### 2) Animal-based and other measurables

In the third paragraph, the Group did not agree to change 'corrective action' with 'welfare intervention' as the concept of 'corrective action' is commonly used and known by quality assurance schemes.

##### 3) Recommendations

In the second paragraph, the Group agreed to remove 'hazard' in the expression 'animal welfare hazard' and add 'compromised' in front of 'animal welfare' instead for better clarity.

In the fourth paragraph, the Group agreed with the concept that water provided should be suitable for drinking and added the term 'drinking' in front of 'water'.

In the last paragraph, the Group agreed to rephrase the sentence to improve clarity, and to add 'sick' to the list of animals which should be slaughtered as a priority and without delay. The Group did not agree to add 'provision of shelter, shade, bedding and food' as this is covered by 'appropriate care'.

The Group agreed with the proposal to add a new paragraph to specify that animals should be moved in small groups but instead added a modified version under article 7.5.13. point 3).

The Group added the sentence 'Animals should not be isolated throughout the slaughter process' to address a comment for section 4).

##### 4) Species-specific recommendations

The Group agreed to delete the third and fourth paragraphs and add the concepts into point 3), as these are not species-specific recommendations.

The Group agreed with a comment that 'sheep should not be isolated', but because this is also true for other species, the Group added a sentence in section 3) instead to clarify that 'Animals should not be isolated throughout the slaughter process'.

#### **Article 7.5.13. Handling of free-moving animals**

##### 1) Animal welfare concerns

In the last sentence, the Group agreed to add 'and injuries' as poorly designed facilities will also increase risks of injuries and is consistent with the second sentence.

##### 2) Animal-based and other measurables

In point f), the Group did not agree to change 'strike against' for 'collide with' as the rationale was not clear and the change did not improve language.

In point g), the Group agreed to remove the term 'excessive' as using excessive force is not acceptable.

---

### 3) Recommendations

In the first sentence of the first paragraph, the Group did not agree to add 'when necessary' as it is too vague. However, the Group agreed with the rationale that when the loading dock is at the same height as the vehicle, the use of the ramp is not necessary, and therefore modified the sentence and the rest of the paragraph to improve clarity.

In the eighth paragraph, the Group agreed to add a sentence on flight distance and point of balance and one sentence on group size to provide guidance on animal behaviours tendencies to personnel moving animals so that they can act more effectively and with less stress.

The Group agreed to move up the paragraph on 'Other handling aids and electric goads' and to change 'Mechanical aids' with 'Other handling aids'; this became the 11<sup>th</sup> paragraph.

In the now twelfth paragraph on electric goads, the Group agreed to reinstate the 'not to be used on a routine basis' and to add a sentence to clarify the conditions when electric goads may be used.

In the now thirteenth paragraph on the use of electric goads, the Group agreed to add a sentence to specify the maximum length of time a shock should be applied to prevent inadequate use of electric goads. The Group agreed to add 'udders' as a sensitive area to which electric goads should never be applied. The Group did not agree to add a sentence to say that the 'goads should not be carried routinely' as other changes in the paragraph covered this concept already.

The Group agreed to reinstate the concept of how rarely falls should occur and added the proposed paragraph but replace 'to move 99% of the animals without falling' with 'less than 1% of the animals fall' to reflect that 'animals that fall' are those audited.

#### **Article 7.5.14. Lairage of free-moving animals**

##### 1) Animal welfare concerns

In point c), the Group agreed to replace 'machinery, metal yards and gates' with 'facilities, equipment and gates' to improve understanding.

In point g), the Group did not agree to add 'discomfort or distress' as this did not improve the text.

##### 2) Animal-based and other measurables

In point g), the Group agreed to add 'loud moos or bellows in cattle' as an example of vocalisation as these are also associated with severe animal welfare problems.

##### 3) Recommendations

In the second paragraph, the Group did not agree to change the number of hours of arrival from 12 to 24 after which animal should be fed. The Group already discussed lengthily regarding the effects of feed withdrawal on the animals while waiting in the lairage in previous meetings and highlighted that the important part of this recommendation is to consider the whole fasting period as well as the animal species.

In the penultimate paragraph, the Group agreed to add examples of categories of animals that should not be mixed to clarify the concept, but included the caveat that these do not apply when animals are already familiar to each other.

In the last paragraph, the Group agreed to add a sentence to specify that sick or injured animals should be euthanised with a reference to article 7.5.19. The Group restructured the first sentence to improve clarity. The term 'very young' was replaced by 'neonate' to be more specific.

##### 4) Species-specific recommendations

In the first paragraph, the Group agreed to delete 'when resting in lairage' as well as the rest of the sentence as the recommendation to move pigs in small groups is valid for any part of the process. The Group did not agree to delete 'up to 15 pigs' as it is recommended to move pigs in small groups and the rationale provided considers logistic issues and not animal welfare.

---

The Group did not agree to add a sentence to specify that sheep should not be isolated as this is true for other species and is covered under Article 7.5.12. point 3).

#### **Article 7.5.15. Restraint for stunning or bleeding (free-moving animals)**

##### 1) Animal welfare concerns:

In the first paragraph, the Group agreed to replace 'pain and distress' with 'distress, fear and pain' to order the terms logically and it applied this terminology throughout the chapter.

In the second paragraph, the Group agreed to add a point d) as it is important to ensure a proper restraint that can be adjusted to the size of the animal.

##### 3) Recommendations

In the third paragraph, the Group did not agree to rephrase the sentence so that 'in case of slaughter without stunning' only applies to the second part of the sentence. The Group did not agree to add 'minimising excessive vertical and lateral movements' to specify how the head should be restrained.

In the sixth paragraph, the Group did not agree to add 'or invert' because the research is not conclusive, and it depends on certification bodies.

In the seventh paragraph, the Group agreed to add 'and should be well maintained to minimise risk of injury' as maintenance of equipment is important to prevent injury.

In the eleventh paragraph, the Group agreed to add 'to stun and' as this is the first step prior to being slaughtered.

The Group agreed to add a paragraph to provide a recommendation so that stressful situations where animal piles on top of each other is prevented.

The Group agreed to include a new paragraph regarding the possibility to cause additional stress when using a restraint method to specify that the use of specific stunning equipment should be appropriately positioned.

#### **Article 7.5.16. Stunning of free-moving animals**

The Group agreed to split Article 7.5.16. into smaller articles and to reorganise the information so that it is aligned with the structure of articles on stunning of animals arriving in containers. The content of the new Article 7.5.16. contains the general recommendations applicable to stunning of both free-moving animals and animals in containers. Consequently, the title was changed to 'General principles for stunning of free-moving animals and animals in containers'.

##### 1) Animal welfare concerns

In the second paragraph, the Group agreed that due to many species being included, a general clause be added to clarify that only stunning methods that have been validated as effective for a species should be used for that species.

##### 2) Animal-based and other measurables

The Group agreed to move the first paragraph to section 3 as it is a recommendation and not an animal-based measure. This paragraph replaces the second sentence of the fifth paragraph 'Effectiveness of the stunning should be monitored regularly' in section 3.

##### 3) Recommendations

At the end of the last paragraph, the Group agreed to add 'the species and age group concerned' to highlight the importance to consider these due to the enormous difference in equipment for various species. This was applied throughout the chapter for consistency.

#### **[New] Article 7.5.17. Mechanical stunning of free-moving animals**

##### 1) Animal welfare concerns

---

The Group agreed to make some changes to improve clarity and to include a new paragraph regarding the use of free bullet in wild and semi-wild animals as an alternative to a mechanical stun for this species.

2) Animal-based and other measurables

The Group agreed to clarify what the animal-based measures were for an effective and ineffective stun by adopting a clearer sentence structure: 'Animal-based measures of an effective stun are:' and 'Animal-based measures of an ineffective stun [...] are:'. This change was made throughout the chapter for consistency.

In the first paragraph, the Group agreed to add 'clonic' to 'tonic' as animals shot with a captive bolt will kick in an uncoordinated fashion. This change was made throughout the chapter for consistency. The Group did not agree to add 'lack of voluntary movement' as the animal is usually standing and conscious. The Group did not agree to move 'rhythmic breathing' in the list of measures of ineffective stun as the Group agreed to harmonise the order of all animal-based measures across articles near the end of the revision process.

3) Recommendations

The Group added an example to the bulleted list 'shape and diameter of the non-penetrating bolt' and reorganised the list to improve clarity and to reflect logical order.

4) Species-specific recommendations

The Group added a paragraph to clarify how water buffaloes should be stunned as the information was missing and it was a concern.

**[New] Article 7.5.18. Electrical stunning of-moving animals**

1) Animal welfare concerns

At the end of the first paragraph, the Group agreed to add text identifying concerns with excessively wet hides or fleeces when using electrical stunning.

3) Recommendations

The Group agreed to add the parameter 'maximum stun to stick interval' to the bulleted list, as that measure is crucial to avoid recovery of consciousness before brain death.

4) Species-specific recommendations

The Group agreed to reinstate the electrical parameters presented as a range of values because they are well established and provide key guidance to reduce risk of ineffective stunning.

In the last paragraph, the Group agreed to add a sentence to specify that the electrical parameter listed are meant to be used with a frequency of 50 Hz to be effective.

**[New] Article 7.5.19. Controlled atmosphere stunning of free-moving animals**

1) Animal welfare concerns

The Group did not agree to add a sentence to say that controlled atmosphere was only validated for certain species because it is already covered in the general principles of the new article 7.5.16. and species should not be specified in case new evidence becomes available. The Group did not agree to add the concern with controlled atmosphere stunning methods is the risk of insufficient exposure as this is already covered.

2) Animal-based and other measurables

The Group did not agree to add the four paragraphs from the 'animal arriving in containers' section as they are not relevant in this context.

---

### 3) Recommendations

In the fourth indent, the Group did not agree to delete 'if possible' and instead added an indent to clarify that resource-based measures should be used when not possible to monitor animal-based measures during the induction phase. The Group partially agreed to add text about gas concentrations for consistency with the section on animal arriving in containers and added that sentence at the end of the new indent created.

### 4) Species-specific recommendations

The Group agreed to modify the first sentence and add a second sentence to clarify that gas stunning is aversive to animals and can lead to negative animal welfare outcomes but that gas stunning in pigs can provide welfare benefits in group stunning.

## **Article 7.5.20. Bleeding of free-moving animals**

### 1) Animal welfare concerns

In the second paragraph, the Group agreed to replace 'feel' with 'experience' to be consistent with the rest of the chapter but did not agree to add 'severe' as there is no classification to assess the various levels of fear.

### 2) Animal-based and other measurables

In the second paragraph, the Group did not agree to add 'permanent' in front of absence of 'rhythmic breathing' and 'collapse' because consciousness must be reassessed until death is confirmed. The Group added a sentence to clarify this point.

In the second paragraph, the Group did not agree to add a sentence to list the signs of death because it repeated all the signs of unconsciousness and is part of the common definition of death.

In the second paragraph, the Group did not agree to delete the last sentence at this point but it will discuss further the option to add 'except for bovine animals' as a caveat.

### 3) Recommendations

In point d), the Group agreed to add 'as necessary to fulfil recommendations a) and b)' as sharpening knives is essential for those two items.

In the section on 'Slaughter without stunning' point a), the Group did not agree to include a table listing the stunning methods with the maximum stun-stick interval because it may vary between countries and there is no agreement to it.

### 4) Species-specific recommendations

The Group agreed to add 'buffalo' along with cattle because the text is relevant to this species. The Group agreed to make editorial changes to clarify the paragraph. The Group did not agree to add the examples of occlusion 'caused by carotid ballooning or false aneurism' as this is not necessary in this paragraph.

## **Article 7.5.21. Slaughter of pregnant free-moving animals**

### 1) Animal welfare concerns

The Group did not agree to remove the last sentence because there is a risk for the foetus to start breathing if removed from the uterus and therefore it may perceive pain.

The Group did not agree to add 'breathe oxygen and then will be able to' to the last sentence as it is not necessary.

### 2) Animal-based and other measurables

The Group agreed to change the sentence to clarify that the animal-based measure refers to the neonate after removal from the uterus.



---

### **Article 7.5.22. Emergency killing of free-moving animals**

The Group did not agree to modify the title of this article to add 'Other killing and killing out of the slaughter line' as it is not part of the scope of this article.

#### 1) Animal welfare concerns

In the first sentence, the Group did not agree to add "but not affecting food safety" after 'severe illnesses' as post-mortem inspections are in place to determine this, and injuries or illnesses can cause pain and suffering whether it affects food safety.

The Group agreed to delete the last sentence as not relevant in this context and it is not the scope of the chapter.

#### 3) Recommendations

In the second paragraph, the Group did not agree to add 'using methods that are effective and humane for the age and species of animal because it is implicit, it is mentioned elsewhere and there was no rationale. The Group did not agree to replace 'euthanise' with 'emergency kill' because as defined 'euthanise' fits the concept of this article.

### **Article 7.5.23. Methods, procedures, or practices unacceptable on animal welfare grounds for free-moving animals**

In the first paragraph, the Group did not agree to add an exception to the statement and added 'under any circumstances' to clarify that the listed practices must not be used.

In point 1a), the Group agreed to add 'twisting' to the list of unacceptable practices.

In point 1b), the Group agreed to add 'to any part of an animal' to clarify that injurious objects should not be used anywhere on the body.

In point 1f), the Group did not agree to delete this entire point as it is not considered appropriate to drag animals by any of their body parts under any circumstances.

In point 1h), the Group agreed to add 'udder' to the list of sensitive area examples.

In point 2a), the Group agreed to add wording to improve clarity on the methods of restraint.

The Group agreed to add a new point 2h) that specifies that trip floor boxes designed to make animals fall are unacceptable.

The Group did not agree to add 'blunt force trauma as an unacceptable method of euthanasia' to a point 4) because while it is not recommended, it might be the only method available

### **Article 7.5.24. Arrival of animals in containers**

#### 1) Animal welfare concerns

The Group agreed to add 'may have suffered from injury' as an additional scenario that affects animal welfare.

#### 3) Recommendations

In the first paragraph, the Group did not agree to delete the last sentence as it is valid for animals arriving in containers.

In the second paragraph, the Group agreed to delete the last sentence to be consistent with the changes made to the Article 7.5.12. on free-moving animals.

#### 4) Species-specific recommendations

The Group did not agree to reinstate the deleted paragraph as it is not 'species-specific' and it is already mentioned in point 1) 'animal welfare concerns'.

---

#### **Article 7.5.25. Moving of animal in containers**

1) Animal welfare concerns

The Group agreed to add a paragraph with additional concerns that may occur during unloading and moving containers.

The Group did not agree to add 'overloading of containers' as this is a transport issue out of the abattoir's control. The Group recommends that this be considered for Chapter 7.3. 'Transport of animals by land'.

2) Animal-based and other measurables

The Group did not agree to add a new point f) 'number of dead or moribund animals' as this is an indicator for transport.

#### **Article 7.5.26. Lairage of animals in containers**

1) Animal welfare concerns

The Group agreed to add a new point b) 'poor ventilation' as it is a distinct requirement.

The Group agreed to replace 'extreme climate' with 'adverse weather or climate conditions' to be consistent with article 7.5.14. and thermal stress can occur without the climate being extreme.

2) Animal-based and other measurables

In point d), the Group did not agree to add 'illness and' as 'illness' is not an indicator of the welfare of the animals moving in the abattoir but reflects previous conditions not related to the slaughterhouse and there was no rationale for the proposed change.

#### **Article 7.5.27. Unloading animals from containers**

1) Animal welfare concerns

In point b), the Group agreed to add 'shackling or' as when systems use shackling to convey birds to the stunning area, containers too far from the place of shackling may be a hazard but if shackling is performed after stunning, containers should be near the place of stunning.

3) Recommendations

In the first paragraph, the Group did not agree to replace 'should be avoided' with 'should not be applied' as 'avoided' is a stronger term and it makes it clearer that this is not acceptable.

The Group agreed to add a new third paragraph to specify that mistreatment of animals in the process of unloading and shackling prior to stunning is unacceptable but did not agree to include 'Good Commercial Practice should be followed at all times' as this is too vague.

The Group agreed to add a fifth paragraph to specify that every animal must be removed from containers prior to being returned to avoid situations where containers are being washed with animals still inside.

The Group did not agree to add a sentence on how containers should be designed as this is a recommendation for the transport of animals.

4) Species-specific recommendations

The Group did not accept to add 'amputated limbs and/or leg wounds as it is considered under 'broken bones'.

#### **Article 7.5.28. restraint for stunning animal from containers**

1) Animal welfare concerns

In point b), the Group agreed to delete 'hanging' as it is redundant when used with 'shackling'.

---

In point b), the Group did not agree to add a sentence to specify that shackling was painful for birds with leg deformities as shackling is painful for all birds regardless of deformities or illness.

In point c), the Group agreed to move the examples to the start of the sentence to clarify what 'inappropriate shackling' is before saying that it leads to pain and fear.

2) Animal-based and other measurables

In point a), the Group agreed to replace 'struggling' with 'wing flapping for birds' as this is a more accurate behaviour to measure.

3) Recommendations

In the first paragraph, the Group did not agree to add 'such as controlled atmosphere stunning' as it is implicit.

In the third paragraph, the Group agreed to add a sentence about shackling duration but specified that it is 'prior stunning to avoid the contradiction with the previous sentence that says that 'shackle line speeds must be optimised'.

4) Species-specific recommendations

In the second paragraph of the 'rabbits' section, the Group agreed to add examples of how rabbits should not be lifted as important for this species.

In the first paragraph of the 'poultry' section, the Group did not agree to add an exception when shackling can be used in heavy birds as the need to use appropriately designed shackling device is implicitly mentioned in the 'recommendation' section.

#### **Article 7.5.29. Head only electrical stunning**

1) Animal welfare concerns

The Group agreed to clarify 'intensity' by reverting to 'magnitude' so that the term is consistent in all translations. The Group agreed to add 'electrical arcing, high contact resistance caused by wool or dirt' to be consistent with article 7.5.18.

2) Animal-based and other measurables include

The Group agreed to delete the first paragraph and replace the second paragraph to align with text in the new Article 7.5.16, section 2). This was applied to Article 7.5.30.

3) Recommendations

In the third paragraph, the Group did not agree to remove the 'or be immediately killed' as there is a need to have the option for animals to be re-stunned and killed immediately using a back-up system.

In the fifth paragraph, the Group did not agree to reword the last part of the sentence as the current structure is clearer.

The Group agreed to add electrical parameters but added these in section 4 for consistency with Article 7.5.18.

#### **Article 7.5.30. Electrical water-bath stunning for poultry**

2) Animal-based and other measurables

In the third paragraph, the Group agreed to remove the indicator 'loss of posture' as you cannot see this indicator in a water-bath.

In the third paragraph, the Group did not agree to add 'lack of voluntary movement' but instead added 'palpebral reflex' to be more accurate. This change was made throughout the chapter for consistency.

3) Recommendations

---

The Group did not agree to include a new sentence after the third paragraph regarding the time the birds should be in the shackle as it was considered to be covered in the animal welfare concerns part of this Article.

In the tenth paragraph, the Group agreed to add a new indent for 'number of birds in the water-bath' as the greater the number of birds, the bigger the risk of birds not receiving the necessary current.

#### 4) Species-specific recommendations

The Group agreed to add the electrical specifications for consistency with the rest of the chapter.

### **Article 7.5.31. Mechanical stunning**

#### 1) Animal welfare concerns

Under 'Cervical dislocation and decapitation', the Group agreed to delete 'and decapitation' as 'decapitation' is only a bleeding method and not a stunning method and move the text related to 'decapitation' to a separate paragraph. The Group agreed to rephrase the text under these two sections ('Cervical dislocation' and 'Decapitation') to improve clarity.

#### 2) Animal-based and other measurables

The Group did not agree to delete the entire section on 'Cervical dislocation and decapitation' but edited the text to make a better distinction between the two.

#### 3. Recommendations

The Group did not agree to delete the first paragraph as it is appropriate for animals moving in containers.

In the section 'with comb', the Group did not agree to include the specifications for captive bolt stunning as this is too much detail and it is not specified for free-moving animals. This rejection was applied throughout the chapter.

In the section 'with comb', the Group agreed to delete the last three paragraphs as they do not concern the usage of the captive bolt.

In the section 'Rabbits', the Group agreed to delete the third paragraph as this relates to broiler chickens.

In the section 'Cervical dislocation', the Group did not agree to delete the first paragraph to be consistent with the other articles. In the first paragraph, the Group did not agree to add 'in slaughterhouse/abattoirs' because the chapter is not about killing sick birds in farms. There is no need to add that specification.

In the section 'Cervical dislocation', last paragraph, the Group agreed to rephrase the entire paragraph to clarify that dislocation should not be performed with crushing tools.

#### 4) Species-specific recommendations

The Group agreed to add 'ducks' to the list of poultry that may be stunned by non-penetrative captive bolt as these devices have been shown to be effective in that species.

### **Article 7.5.32. Controlled atmosphere stunning for animals in containers**

The Group agreed to replace 'poultry' with 'animals in containers' in the title to reflect better the content of the article.

#### 3) Recommendations

In the second paragraph, the Group agreed to replace 'dead before being shackled' with 'rendered unconscious until death' to permit wider use of gas stunning and the welfare benefits by allowing its consideration for religious slaughter.

#### 4) Species-specific recommendations

The Group did not agree with the suggestion to add 'and newly hatched layer chicks' but instead replace 'commercial broilers' with 'chickens' to reflect the references and to be consistent with the changes made in the first paragraph of Article 7.5.32.

---

### **Article 7.5.33. Bleeding of animals arriving in containers**

#### 1) Animal welfare concerns

In the third paragraph, the Group did not agree to add a sentence about bleeding without prior stunning for ritual or religious slaughtering as this is not the section for recommendations and this is not relevant for welfare.

In the last paragraph, last sentence, the Group agreed to add 'and death by drowning' for clarity but did not agree to add 'had both carotid arteries and jugular veins severed or have not' in the sentence with animals that have not undergone a sufficient bleeding period as it was added to section 3.

The Group deleted the reference to 40 sec as the minimum time of bleeding period due to lack of references, but would like to ask Members to provide any relevant references that could sustain a recommendation of such period of time.

#### 3) Recommendations

The Group agreed to add an indent to recommend that 'both carotid arteries should be severed' as failure to do so can lead to extended bleed out times and increases the risk of animals recovering consciousness after stunning.

### **Article 7.5.34. Emergency killing on animals arriving in containers**

No comments

### **Article 7.5.35. Methods, procedures, or practices unacceptable on animal welfare grounds for animal arriving in containers.**

Under point 1), the Group agreed to add a new point d) 'stepping on or crushing animals' as it is an important handling behaviour that is unacceptable and not covered by any other points.

## **5. Review of comments on the Glossary definitions related to Chapter 7.5.**

Comments on Glossary definitions were received from Australia, Norway, the USA, the UK and the EU.

The Group considered the comments submitted after the February 2022 Code Commission meeting and made amendments to improve clarity and readability, where relevant. Also, the Group agreed that it could be more sensible to use definitions that already have an international acceptance, rather than to develop a new one. The revised definitions will be published with the Code Commission's February 2023 meeting report.

#### ***Death***

The Group did not agree to reinstate the definition of 'death' as it is considered tautological. The Group agreed with the Code Commission's comment in their September 2022 report.

#### ***Distress***

The Group did not agree to modify the proposed definition, but they proposed to include an internationally accepted definition developed by Franklin D. McMillan.

#### ***Euthanasia***

The Group proposed to use the most used definition and not to include any temporal concept, such as the rapidity that the procedure should take as it considered not relevant.

#### ***Pain***

The Group modified the definition based on the internationally accepted definition of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP).

#### ***Slaughter***

No comments received.

---

### **Stunning**

The Group agreed to insert the word 'without' in reference to pain as it considers that the stunning process cannot be performed without certain levels of distress, fear, or pain.

### **Suffering**

The Group agreed to delete the definition of Suffering, as this one is no longer used in the draft chapter.

### **6. Next steps**

The *ad hoc* Group report with the amended versions of the Chapter 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter and the new version of the related definitions will be presented to the Code Commission February 2023 meeting.

---

.../Annexes

---

## Annex 1. Adopted Agenda

### MEETING OF WOAHA *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE REVISION OF CHAPTER 7.5. 'SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS'

Hybrid, 25 to 27 October 2022

---

1. Welcome.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. Update from the September 2022 Code Commission meeting.
4. Revision and discussion of the comments on the revised version of Chapter 7.5. 'Animal welfare during slaughter' and amend it accordingly.
5. Revision and discussion of comments on the related Code Glossary definitions of Chapter 7.5. and amend them accordingly.
6. Discussion of the revised Chapter 7.6. 'Animal welfare at the time of killing'.
7. Next steps and any other businesses.
8. The review and finalisation of the report of the meeting

---

## Annex 2. List of Participants

### MEETING OF WOA *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE REVISION OF CHAPTER 7.5. 'SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS'

Hybrid, 25 to 27 October 2022

---

#### MEMBERS OF THE *AD HOC* GROUP

---

**Dr Antonio Velarde (Chair)**  
Head of Animal Welfare Program  
Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia  
Agroalimentàries (IRTA)  
Barcelona  
SPAIN

**Dr Marien Gerritzen**  
Senior Scientist  
Wageningen University &  
Research  
Wageningen  
THE NETHERLANDS

**Dra. Marcia del Campo Gigena**  
**Investigador Principal**  
Instituto Nacional de  
Investigación Agropecuaria  
Tacuarembó  
URUGUAY

**Dr Cia L. Johnson**  
Director Animal Welfare Division Public  
Policy SBU  
American Veterinary Medical  
Association  
Illinois  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Dr Craig Brian Johnson**  
Professor of Veterinary  
Neurophysiology  
Institute of Veterinary, Animal and  
Biomedical Sciences  
Palmerston North  
NEW ZEALAND

**Dr Awis Qurni Sazili**  
Professor/Deputy Director  
Institute of Tropical Agriculture  
and Food Security  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
Selangor  
MALAYSIA

**Dr Denis Simonin**  
Head of Sector / Animal Welfare  
Animal Health and Welfare Unit  
European Commission  
Brussels  
BELGIUM

#### REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

---

**Dr Bernardo Todeschini**  
Agricultural Attaché  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and  
Food Supply of Brazil  
Mission of Brazil to the European Union  
BELGIUM

#### WOAH HEADQUARTERS

---

**Dr Leopoldo Stuardo**  
Scientific Coordinator-Animal Welfare  
Standards Department

**Ms Elizabeth Marier**  
Chargée de mission  
Standards Department



---

## Annex 3. Terms of Reference

### MEETING OF WOAH *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE REVISION OF CHAPTER 7.5. 'SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS'

Hybrid, 25 to 27 October 2022

---

#### **Purpose**

For the *ad hoc* Group to consider comments received on the revised Chapter 7.5. 'Slaughter of animals' (previously named 'Animal welfare during slaughter') that was circulated in the Code Commission's February 2022 report, and to amend the text as appropriate.

#### **Specific issues to be addressed**

- Consider comments received.

#### **Actions to deliver**

*Ad hoc* Group members to:

- Review all working documents including Member comments ahead of the virtual meetings;
- Attend the whole meeting on agreed dates;
- Review the revised draft chapter and the related definitions and confirm reflects decisions made.

#### **Considerations**

- Consider the previous version of the draft chapter circulated for comments in the Code Commission's February 2022 report;
- Consider scientific evidence relevant to the content of the chapter (scientific references must be provided and included in the draft text);
- Be familiar with the structure of the *Terrestrial Code* and the use of glossary definitions.

#### **Expectations**

*Ad hoc* Group members should:

- Contribute to discussions
- Contribute to drafting text
- Provide rationale to support their decision

#### **Deliverables**

- 1) a report describing the *ad hoc* Group's responses to comments including a rationale for each of the proposed responses;
- 2) an amended draft chapter and related Glossary definitions taking into consideration comments received.

#### **Report**

The *ad hoc* Group will finalise its report and revised draft chapter by 31 December 2022 for the Commission's consideration at its February 2023 meeting.

---

---

**© World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), 2023**

This document has been prepared by specialists convened by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Pending adoption by the World Assembly of Delegates, the views expressed herein can only be construed as those of these specialists.

All WOAHPublications are protected by international copyright law. Extracts may be copied, reproduced, translated, adapted or published in journals, documents, books, electronic media and any other medium destined for the public, for information, educational or commercial purposes, provided prior written permission has been granted by the WOAHPublication.

The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the WOAHPublication concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

The views expressed in signed articles are solely the responsibility of the authors. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the WOAHPublication in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

---